

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
814 THEODORE LEVIN UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE
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NEWS RELEASE:

For Immediate Release

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COURT CAUTIONS PUBLIC OF POSSIBLE IDENTITY THEFT SCAM

Chief Judge Bernard A. Friedman announced today that the Court has been advised of a nationwide scam in which citizens receive a telephone call from an individual claiming to be with a court. The caller indicates that a bench warrant has been issued for the arrest of the citizen for failure to appear for jury duty. The caller then asks the citizen to verify certain personal information, i.e., social security number, by providing that information.

In federal court, potential jurors are summoned through the mail and told when to report for jury duty. If a phone call is made to a potential juror, personal information is not requested because the Court already has that information. In addition, jurors who fail to appear are not advised over the telephone that a bench warrant has been issued. The warrant, once signed by the judicial officer, is executed in person by the United States Marshals Service.

Chief Judge Friedman cautions the public from providing the personal information requested in these calls. He also suggests, if you receive one of these calls, that you call 313-234-2619 and leave your name, telephone number and a detailed description of the call you received.

Any information provided will be turned over to the United States Attorney's Office, which will determine whether further action is warranted.